

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00710 071147Z
ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 DODE-00 /031 W
-----071201Z 096390 /53

R 071040Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2692
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DOHA 0710

USDOC FOR CAGNE

ABUDHABI PASS DUBAI

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ATRN, EWWT, QA
SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION IN DOHA-WAITING TIME DOWN TO 30 DAYS

REF: STATE 128701

1. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF QATAR PORTS, ABDULLAH GHIRARI, TOLD
EMBOFF THAT DELAY IN DOHA PORT NOW DOWN TO THIRTY DAYS. REASONS
FOR DECREASE ARE INCREASED OPERATING HOURS OF PORTS (FORMERLY
FOURTEEN HOURS PER DAY, NOW EIGHTEEN), INCREASED NUMBER OF BERTHS
AVAILABLE AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY.

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2. ACCORDING TO GHIRARI ADDITION OF FIFTH BERTH IN DOHA MAJOR
CONTRIBUTOR TO DECREASE IN WAITING TIME.

GHIRARI EXPECTS EVEN FURTHER DECREASE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE WHEN
IMPACT OF OPENING OF FIRST TWO BERTHS IN UMM SAID PORT BEGINS TO
BE FELT. (PORT AUTHORITY TOOK DELIVERY OF FIRST TWO UMM SAID

BERTHS ON JUNE 4.) GHIRARI SAID THAT ALL INCOMING CEMENT SHIPMENTS ARE BEING DIVERTED TO UMM SAID BERTHS THUS FREEING DOHA BERTHS AND CARGO STORAGE AREAS FOR GENERAL CARGO. UMM SAID BERTHS WILL HANDLE SOME GENERAL CARGO IN ADDITION TO CEMENT SHIPMENTS.

3. GHIRARI INDICATED THAT BOTTLENECK IS NO LONGER IN PORTS BUT IS NOW CAUSED BY INABILITY OF CONSIGNEES TO ARRANGE AND ACCEPT DELIVERIES OF GOODS ALREADY IN PORT STORAGE AREAS.

4. ACCORDING TO GHIRARI THERE WERE SOME OBJECTIONS FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED OF OPENING OF UMM SAID BERTHS SINCE OFFLOADING AT UMM SAID WOULD ENTAIL FORTY KILOMETER ROAD TRIP FOR GOODS DESTINED FOR DOHA. (EXPENSE OF ROAD SHIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE ABSORBED BY CONSIGNEE SINCE DELIVERY WOULD BE TAKEN IN PORT.) GHIRARI INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGHT MERCHANTS MIGHT JIBE AT EXPENSE "THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO ABOUT IT" AND THAT THEY REALLY HAD NO CAUSE TO COMPLAIN SINCE COST OF BUILDING PORTS WAS PAID BY GOVT AND MERCHANTS IN EFFECT HAD FREE USE OF FACILITY TO WHICH THEY MADE NO CONTRIBUTION. ACCORDING TO GHIRARI COMPLAINTS WILL BE SHORT LIVED AND WILL END WHEN MERCHANTS REALIZE THAT DECREASE IN SURCHARGES WILL MORE THAN OFFSET COST OF ROAD SHIPMENT.

5. GHIRARI AND OTHER PORT OFFICIALS PREDICT THAT WITHIN THREE MONTHS CONGESTION IN QATAR PORTS WILL DISAPPEAR AND THAT SURCHARGES WILL END AT SAME TIME. JUDGING ON PAST PERFORMANCE EMBASSY AGREES WITH PORT OFFICIALS' ASSESSMENTS.
PAGANELLI

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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